

**Claim Amendments:**

1-9. (Canceled)

10-17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Currently Amended) A cable tie, comprising:

a strap including a first end forming a neck section including an angular bend of approximately 90°, a free end opposite the first end, and an intermediate section between the first end and the free end, the intermediate section having a predetermined width  $\underline{B}$   $B_1$  and thickness  $T_1$  defining a predetermined cross-sectional area;

a cable tie head secured to the neck section ~~area~~ of the strap at the first end of the strap, the cable tie head having a width E that is wider than strap width B and including a strap accepting channel containing a locking device, the strap accepting channel being sized to receive the free end of the strap,

wherein the neck section has a width that transitions from the width  $\underline{B}$   $B_1$  to a width E' that is substantially the same as width E and a thickness  $T_2$  that is thinner than  $T_1$ , the neck section having a cross-sectional area that is at least substantially equal to the cross-sectional area of the intermediate section of the strap so as to have a tensile strength at least equal to a tensile strength of the intermediate section of the strap.

19. (Currently Amended) A cable tie, comprising:

a strap including a first end forming a neck section, a free end opposite the first end, and an intermediate section between the first end and the free end, the intermediate section having a predetermined width  $\underline{B}$   $\underline{B}_+$  and thickness  $T_1$  defining a predetermined cross-sectional area;

a cable tie head secured to the neck section ~~area~~ of the strap at the first end of the strap, the cable tie head having a width E that is wider than strap width B and including a strap accepting channel containing a locking device, the strap accepting channel being sized to receive the free end of the strap,

wherein the neck section has a width that transitions from the width  $\underline{B}$   $\underline{B}_+$  to a width E' that is substantially the same as width E and a thickness  $T_2$  that is thinner than  $T_1$ , the neck section having a cross-sectional area that is at least substantially equal to the cross-sectional area of the intermediate section of the strap so as to have a tensile strength at least equal to a tensile strength of the intermediate section of the strap,

wherein the cross-section of the neck section includes at least one reduced thickness channel of thickness  $T_2$  on an inner side of the neck section and thickened side portions of a thickness  $T_3$  that is greater than  $T_2$ .

20. (Currently Amended) A cable tie, comprising:

a strap including a first end forming a neck section, a free end opposite the first end, and an intermediate section between the first end and the free end, the intermediate section having a predetermined width  $\underline{B}$   $\underline{B}_+$  and thickness  $T_1$  defining a predetermined cross-sectional area;

a cable tie head secured to the neck section ~~area~~ of the strap at the first end of the strap, the cable tie head having a width E that is wider than strap width B and including a strap accepting

channel containing a locking device, the strap accepting channel being sized to receive the free end of the strap,

wherein the neck section has a width that transitions from the width  $B$  to a width  $E'$  that is substantially the same as width  $E$  and a thickness  $T_2$  that is thinner than  $T_1$ , the neck section having a cross-sectional area that is at least substantially equal to the cross-sectional area of the intermediate section of the strap so as to have a tensile strength at least equal to a tensile strength of the intermediate section of the strap,

wherein the cross-section of the neck section includes at least one reduced thickness channel of thickness  $T_2$  and thickened side portions of a thickness  $T_3$  that is greater than  $T_2$ , wherein the at least one reduced thickness channel includes a first channel formed on an inner side of the neck section and a second channel formed on an outer side of the neck section.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) The cable tie of claim 18, wherein the strap accepting channel of the cable tie head is oriented along an axis substantially perpendicular to the intermediate section of the strap.

24. (New) The cable tie of claim 18, wherein the cross-section of the neck section includes at least one reduced thickness channel of thickness  $T_2$  and thickened side portions of a thickness  $T_3$ , that is greater than  $T_2$ .

25. (New) The cable tie of claim 24, wherein the at least one reduced thickness channel is provided on an outer side of the neck section.

26. (New) The cable tie of claim 24, wherein the at least one reduced thickness channel increases in width from the intermediate section of the strap to the cable tie head.

27. (New) The cable tie of claim 26, wherein the increase in width of the at least one reduced thickness channel is proportional to the increased width of the neck section.